

Of The Virginia Heights Baptist Church

1943 to 1968

In 1942, Broad Creek Village, a wartime housing development, under the Federal Public Housing Authority, was constructed to take care of the influx of defense workers in the Norfolk area.

There was no church available to the masses, and there was no religious training for the children. Mrs. Lee Barbour, a resident of the village, became interested, and her heart was burdened for the large number of children. She organized a Sunday School Class in her home. Adults were meeting for prayer within a short time.

In April 1943, the Barbour's arrangements were made with management of the Godman Park Civic Center, to hold services there each Sunday. Dr. Spark W. Melton of Freemason Street Baptist Church preached the first sermon.

The Woman's Missionary Union of the Portsmouth Association, hearing of the work already done and seeing the need, offered their assistance. Arrangements were made to send Miss Louise Fletcher of the State Mission Board to Broad Creek Village to organize the work. Broad Creek Village was voted into the Portsmouth Association in April 1943.

The Rev. Frank Hughes, Jr., a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Seminary, was called to become mission pastor. On August 1, 1943, Broad Creek Village Baptist Church was organized, with fifty-eight (58) charter members. Rev. Hughes became full time pastor of the church. Miss Fletcher continued as church missionary and aide to the pastor.

The Pineridge Elementary School was nearing completion, so arrangements were made to rent these facilities as soon as possible. Services were begun in the new location in February 1944.

Rev. Otis Pruden became assistant pastor. He directed the mission work at Nelson Park and assisted Rev. Hughes in the educational activities of the church.

Rev. Frank Hughes, Jr., resigned as pastor of the church on January 10, 1947. On March 30, 1947, the church voted to call Rev. William T. Halstead as pastor. He served as pastor for nine (9) years.

May 3, 1956, after the morning worship service, Rev. Halstead submitted his resignation, to become effective June 24.

In October 1956 three acres of land were purchased, on which this church now stands.

The church issued a call to Dr. Jonathan Powhatan Cox as pastor December 16, 1956. He began his pastorate February 15, 1957.

February 8, 1958 the congregation moved to the New Lansdale School and adopted the name of "Virginia Heights Baptist Church."

Dr. Cox resigned as pastor of Virginia Heights Baptist Church, May 3, 1959. Rev. Linwood Peterson became pastor on November 1, 1959. Rev. Peterson and his family occupied the first pastorium owned by the church, located in Poplar Hall. This property has been sold and the pastorium is now located at 5912 Frament Avenue, which joins our church property.

The church voted October 16, 1960, to use the American Bond Company plan to finance the building of a Sanctuary and an Educational Building. A Bond Committee was appointed to handle the sale of bonds.

A Survey Committee was appointed to further determine the value of the land in regards to future growth and development in the area. Also, the advisability of the purchasing of additional church property. One acre of land was negotiated for in 1961. The planning committee increased its efforts to make ready plans for the church building.

In July 1961, the church approved the plans of the architect, Mr. Ray Pentecost. Building Committee was approved by the church to carry out the plans presented to the church. On August 30, 1961, the church authorized the trustees to sign the contract to build the church at a total cost of \$166,400.00 with Mr. L. J. Hoy as general contractor. Ground breaking ceremonies were held Sunday, September 10, 1961 at 10:00 A.M. This was the beginning of fulfillment for those who had waited so long with hope and faith in God.

25th Anniversary



VIRGINIA HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

1251 KEMPSVILLE RD.
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23502

REV. LINWOOD PETERSON, PASTOR

FORWARD THROUGH THE AGES

ORGAN & PIANO PRELUDE NOLTE
 "Dawn Of Promise"
 ALL TO WORSHIP MUELLER
 "Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God"
 MORNING PRAYER
 Lord's Prayer, Congregation
 CHORAL RESPONSE "O Father, Unto Thee"
 CHORAL "Anniversary Hymn"
 500
 WELCOME TO GUESTS PASTOR

COLLECTIONS Supt. Sunday School, Broad Creek Village W. L. HURD
 CHARTER MEMBER MRS. R. C. CONOVER
 463
 "Forward Through The Ages"

WORSHIP THROUGH TITHES AND OFFERINGS
 CONGREGATION Standing
 CHORAL OFFERTORY "Gloria Patri"
 A. L. Norman, Chmn. of Deacons
 OFFERTORY PRAYER WILSON
 "Don't Forget To Pray"
 "Treasures In Heaven"
 CLOKEY
 MESSAGE PASTOR
 HYMN OF PERSONAL DEDICATION "Seal Us, O Holy Spirit"
 175
 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING "Accept Our Praise"
 COOK
 RECEPTIONAL "A Departing Blessing"
 GRUBER

Dinner

ORGAN & PIANO PRELUDE "Meditation In The Chapel"
 WORD OF WELCOME PASTOR
 CHORAL REMINDERS SONG FEST
 DOXOLOGY OFFERING

COLLECTED REMEMBRANCES
 "The Beginning"
 "First Pastor"
 "The Women Organize"
 "Some Went Out To Preach"
 Miss Louise Fletcher
 Rev. Frank Hughes, Jr.
 Mrs. Frank Hughes, Jr.
 Rev. Melvin Hughes
Alan Bloch

COLORFUL REVIEW PICTURE SLIDES
 COMMITTEE REPORT Our Financial Goal J. J. McGRADY
 CHURCH'S REACH INTO THE ASSOCIATION DR. JOHN BROWN
 Exec. Sec., Norfolk Bapt. Assoc.
 CHORAL RENDITION "God's Word Shall Stand" CHAS. VAN HORN
 CHRISTIAN REACH "Goals For The Future" PASTOR
 PRAYER OF DEDICATION
 HYMN OF COMMITMENT "A Charge To Keep I Have" 358
 CHORAL "The New Testament" LANDON
 POSTLUDE "Thanks Be To Thee" HANDEL

Mrs. J. H. Roper, Music Director
 Mrs. C. A. Gates, Organist
 Mrs. James McAllister, Pianist
 Mrs. R. T. McBride, Church Secretary